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DR. ALFRED LACROIX, secrétaire perpétuel of the Académie des Sciences, Paris, and professor and curator of the department of mineralogy of the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, of Paris, has in preparation a life of the great mineralogist *Dolomieu* (1750–1801), and is interested in any information leading to the location of manuscripts, letters or signatures of that great scientist. Any letters or signatures of Abbé René Just Haüy are especially desired, and these, or any information relating to them, can be addressed to George F. Kunz, Abbé Haüy Celebration Committee, 405 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

STEPS have been taken to raise a memorial to the late Dr. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson from the women of England. It will be devoted to the endowment of beds in the New Hospital for Women, Euston Road, which she founded in 1866. A sum of over £9,000 has already been received, and a number of women's colleges and schools have undertaken to raise £7,000.

DR. CHARLES PARKER LYMAN, who was fifteen years dean of the Harvard School of Veterinary Medicine, died in Los Angeles, on February 1, aged seventy years.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN MCCREA, of the Canadian Army Medical Corps and the department of pathology of McGill University, has died in France.

THE late Dr. Ludwig Mond undertook to pay £62,000 as an endowment fund for the David Faraday Research Laboratory of the Royal Institution before 1926. His trustees have now anticipated the obligation, and have transferred £66,500 in 5 per cent. war stock to the trustees of the Laboratory.

UNDERGRADUATES between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one in technical colleges may enroll as second class seaman in the Naval Reserve force for future service, according to the announcement of the Bureau of Navigation of the Navy Department. The students will not be called upon for active duty until they have been graduated, except in case of great emergency, which is not now anticipated by naval authorities. No promise is held out that the

recruits will later be commissioned, but upon graduation they will take examinations, and the ratings they make will determine whether their qualifications merit promotion. Navy recruiting officers have been instructed to communicate with technical colleges and universities with a view to enrolling students who are eligible.

THE United States Public Health Service of the Treasury Department has practically completed plans for preventing malaria among soldiers at camps and cantonments during the coming spring and summer. In a zone from one to two miles wide around twenty or more camps in the south every known effective method of eradicating the disease will be employed under the supervision of experts. In the camps themselves the Army authorities will control the disease. At each camp where there is danger of malaria an expert, probably a sanitary engineer, will be in charge of the malaria operations.

SIR A. MOND said, in the House of Commons on February 18, as quoted in *Nature*, that the Imperial Institute was partly occupied for the sugar rationing purposes of the Ministry. As to the new Science Museum, it was in course of construction, and incomplete. It had been represented that the work of construction ought to be continued during the war, but he was not in a position to complete the construction of museums in existing circumstances. Considerable expense had been incurred in making the finished part of the building suitable for the work now to be done there. Museums now wholly or partly occupied by government departments were the National Gallery, the Tate Gallery, the Wallace Gallery, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the British Museum, of which a small part had been taken over.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

RICHMOND COLLEGE has received a gift of \$60,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Millhizer, of Richmond, Va. This sum is to be used in the erection of a gymnasium which will be a

memorial to their son, whose death occurred on February 24.

By the will of Mrs. Charlotte M. Fiske, of Boston, public bequests to the amount of \$130,000 are made. Tuskegee Normal School, Roanoke College and Bates College receive \$5,000 each and Wellesley College receives \$10,000 and the residue of the estate.

SENATOR W. C. DENNIS, president of the *Halifax Daily Herald*, has presented \$60,000 to Dalhousie University in memory of his son, Captain Eric Dennis, killed at Vimy Ridge. The gift provides that the university shall found a chair of government and political science.

DR. EDWIN BISSELL HOLT, assistant professor of psychology at Harvard University has resigned, his resignation to take place on September 1, 1918.

AT the University of Chicago Dr. Harvey B. Lemon, instructor in the department of physics, has been promoted to an assistant professorship; and Dr. A. L. Tatum, professor of pharmacology in the University of South Dakota, has been made an assistant professor in pharmacology and physiology.

T. J. MURRY, formerly associate bacteriologist of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station and associate professor of bacteriology at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, has been appointed associate professor of bacteriology at the State College of Washington and bacteriologist of the Washington State Experiment Station.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE THE NOMENCLATURE OF THERMOMETRIC SCALES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Present usage in nomenclature of thermometric scales is a cause of indefiniteness and confusion of ideas, and some revision seems called for. Accordingly, I hope the statement of the case which follows<sup>1</sup> will elicit helpful suggestions and tend toward useful results.

The consensus of scientific opinion and practise is all but universally in favor of the

familiar Centigrade scale of temperatures by which the temperature of melting ice and of condensing steam, both from water and under a pressure of one standard atmosphere, are designated 0° and 100° respectively. By general consent the value of other temperatures than the two points thus fixed by definition are defined by the normal constant volume hydrogen thermometer of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures as realized by certain mercury in glass thermometers. In recent years the scale of temperatures defined by the varying resistance of pure platinum is also accorded the status of a thermometric standard when its thermal coefficient as defined by the Callendar equation is evaluated by observations at the melting and boiling points of pure water, and at the boiling point of sulphur under standard conditions defined to be 444.5° or 444.6° C.

All other thermometric scales that depend on the physical properties of substances may, by definition, be made to coincide at the ice point and the boiling point with the normal scale as above defined, but they will diverge more or less from it and from each other at all other points.

To obviate the difficulty which arises because thermometers of different types and substances inherently disagree except at the fixed points, Lord Kelvin proposed many years ago that temperatures be defined by reference to certain thermodynamic laws. This course furnishes a scale independent of the nature or properties of any particular substance. The resulting scale has been variously named the absolute, the thermodynamic, and more recently in honor of its author, the Kelvin scale. The temperature of melting ice by this scale on the centigrade basis is not as yet accurately known, but it is very nearly 273.13°, and that of the boiling point 373.13°.

Occasions arise with increasing frequency in which meteorologists, physicists, and others in dealing with problems of temperature are required to use an absolute scale or an approximation thereto, and to publish temperature data in those units. It is not convenient, and in many cases not necessary, to adhere

<sup>1</sup> See also *Monthly Weather Review*, Nov., 1917.